Additional Quota of Cotton

911. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting has been held by him with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on or about 7th June, 1997 for releasing an additional quota of one lakh bales of cotton for export to Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Minister of Textiles and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra discussed the issue of NTC on 7.6.97. An Export Quota of 1 lakh bales had already been given to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. on 4th June, 1997.

Sick Textile Units under NTC

912. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of sick textile units of NTC which have not been producing any textile for the last ten years or more; and

(b) what is Government's strategy to bring them back to production normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Out of the 120 mills under NTC, there is no mill which has not been producing any textiles for the last ten years or more. However, due to net worth erosion, 8 out of nine subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. Government placed before the BIFR a turn around plan, envisaging modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable units, etc. The funds for these rehabilitation schemes have to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. Due to the reluctance of the State Govt of Maharashtra to approve the sale of surplus lands of the Mumbai Mills, from where more than 80% of the sale proceeds are estimated, and since the BIFR has not yet approved the package, the Turn Around Plan could not be taken up till date. In this background, the NTC has reviewed the unit-wise viability keeping in view the concessions agreed to by the Government in 1995 and the concept of net worth becoming positive. The report of the NTC is presently under consideration of the Government.

Long term support plan for Jute Cultivation/Industry

913. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the figures of acreage production and productivity of jute during the past five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that market prices of jute have at times been coming below the minimum support prices during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps have been or are being taken to take care of the phenomenon;

(d) what is being done on a long term basis to provide jute cultivation and jute Industry a solid base for sustainable growth;

(e) whether there is a proposal to set up a technology mission on jute; and

(f) if so, whether there has been progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Figures of acreage production and productivity (in-

eluding mesta) during the past five years were as given below:

Year	Acreage (000 HEC)	production (000 bales of 180 Kgs.)	productivity (in Kgs.)
1992-93	836.0	7700	1658
1993-94	736.1	7000	1712
1994-95	831.6	8200	1775
1995-96	886.2	8100	1645
1996-97	1039.8	10200	1766

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, substantial carry over stock coupled with a big jute crop resulted to the raw jute prices falling below the MSP level. The funds have already been given to JCI to undertake MSP operation. The requisite steps taken by the Govt, to take care of the phenomenon are as under:—

(a) JCI have been directed to start MSP operations.

(b) Rs. 10.00 crores have been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start up MSP Operations.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI on enhanced credit limit of Rs. 10.00 crores valid upto July, 1997.

(d) Govt, of India have also sanctioned a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 33.00 crores for MSP operations by JCI.

(e) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI to enhance the activities on MSP operations.

(f) The Hon'ble Minister of Textiles had already written to the Hon'ble Minister of Food and the Hon'ble Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other Fertiliser Companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags. We hope that the demand for jute bags will certainly go up as the bulk purchasers have started placing the orders.

(d) Jute Cultivation is being promoted through adoption of improved package of practices, extension support to growers provision of seeds/implements at subsidised rates etc. under Special Jute Development Programme. Vigorous thrust is being provided for Jute Industry by promotion of traditional products through Mandatory Jute Packaging Order, encouragement for product of lighter materials etc.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Import of Textiles by Rich Nations

914. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of curbs that are affecting import of textiles by rich nations; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) There are quantitative restrictions (quotas) on exports of certain textile and clothing items from India, applied by the U.S.A., the European Community Countries, Canada and Norway. However, the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) included in the Final Act on the Uruguay Round, envisages complete integration of the textile sector into the multilateral framework of GATT/WTO by 1-1-2005, in stages.

Close down of BIC Textiles Mills, Kanpur

915. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased fo state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down BIC textile mills, Kanpur;